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PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAH #1037 2700325
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 270325Z SEP 07
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9440
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0499
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2801
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0623
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 1075
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 1788
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0574
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001037

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, SCA/PPD, ECA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GRANTS FLEX RECRUITMENT
A TIMELY START

REF: ASHGABAT 0893

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (U) The Ministry of Education (MOE) has approved the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) recruitment for 2007/2008, which will begin September 30. The surprise early approval is a break from the past and signals a possible change in doing business with the Ministry of Education. In particular, this marks a victory for conducting existing programs without communicating to MOE via diplomatic note, a previous cumbersome requirement. The September start date will provide American Councils (ACCELS), the implementing partner, with comfortable lead-time to recruit 65 students for the January 2008 deadline.

13. (SBU) Since 2004, Ministry officials have delayed the beginning of FLEX recruitment until late October or, at times, until late November. Last year, recruitment for FLEX (and other exchange programs) was delayed until after Thanksgiving. This early approval also reflects that post's efforts to circumvent the influence of Nury Bayramov, MOE's International Department Head, who has often thwarted efforts to promote our educational exchanges, have started to pay off.

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